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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 408. OCTOBER, 1940.

TO KNOW TO WILL. TO DARE.

TO KEEP SILENCE.

ROMANS XIV., 4—"To his own Master, a man stands or falls."

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NOTES AND NEWS.

We pay our tribute to Sir Oliver Lodge, one of the greatest of the Victorian scientists, who passed away in his 90th year, at Amesbury, Wiltshire, on Thursday, August 22nd. In many departments of investigation he was a pioneer, at one time bringing himself under suspicion with the British Association as having outstepped the strict borders of scientific methods, e.g., "Telepathy or thought-transference." We have a vivid recollection of his lecture on "The Interstellar Ether." Later scientists such as Einstein challenged his conclusions. After listening to such a lecture for a considerable time he rose and left the hall, stating afterwards that he was too old "to begin life over again." However there were those who rallied to him and considered that his position still held firm, notwithstanding the bombardment against it.

* * *

Our young people who have read history will know the story of the Crusades, begun 1095 and lasting nearly 200 years, when millions of people from all parts of Christendom in Europe, from kings to peasants, made their way to the East to rescue the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem from the Mohammedans, who were preventing pilgrims from reaching it; and of the exalted feelings which impelled such wholesale devotion and sacrifice; and how the word Crusade is still used where public-spirit is roused to right wrong. Mr. Beverly Baxter in the "Sunday Graphic" quotes an Air Force officer of high rank as saying: "These fellows who come to us in this war are different from any I have ever seen before. The only way I can describe it is that they are men with a mission. There is something going on inside their souls that is a closed book to those of us who belong to an older generation. They are not cruel, but they are relentless. They seem to see in the German Air Force the absolute expression of the scientific domination which Hitler would enforce on the world if he should win. These chaps fight as if it were not a war at all but a crusade. They look up at the skies as if they have been called upon to cleanse them of something vile and obscene. And they simply do not believe in the possibility of defeat."

* * *

There is no force like that of thought for penetrating to the springs of action which manifest themselves in the life of the world, be it peace or war, hence the power of prayer. Even a child can do his part in building round his country a shield of defence, by adding his gift of thought to the united volume of prayer which is daily going forth from homes and churches, and those whose sanctuary is in the "cave of the heart," and with whom the attitude of will to victory is firmly set wherever duty requires them to be.

* * *

The attention of our readers is called to the announcement of the York Street, Belfast, Centenary, and to the claims that York Street has on the denomination. The intention was to have had the celebration in the King's Hall, Balmoral, or alternatively several services in the Ulster Hall, but the war has made that impossible.

It is the time of harvest thanksgiving, and

these and the black-out may prevent those further away from attending, but Belfast itself should be well represented. £1,000 has just been raised, and a second £1,000 has been begun at York Street.

* * *

CORRESPONDENCE.—Would any of our correspondents supply us with information for which we have been asked as to "Whether there was any connection between Ulster Secession Presbyterianism and the Arian Irish Bishops of the XVIII. Century, of whom there were at least two — Rundle and Clayton ?"—THE EDITOR.

* * *

SEPTEMBER 11TH.—Many of you this evening have heard Mr. Winston Churchill's announcement, on a world-wide radio, of the imminent invasion of England and probably Scotland and Ireland, planned with all the strategical skill and method of which Germany is adept. For the first time the nation has learned of the actual fact of the assembly of numerous ships and barges which have been creeping along the coast of Western Europe from Norway to Brest, and possibly beyond that, filled with men and munitions of war, taking up positions from which to attack when the fog comes. This week, or those to follow, may be the most momentous in history for our country or the world. The terrific bombardment of London to shake the morale of the people is only a prelude in the plan ; but it has been met with fortitude beyond all praise. Before these pages reach our readers we have no idea what will have happened, but the triumphant cheer of the ancient words proclaimed in the midst of a great battle come to us, "Birthless and deathless and changeless remaineth the spirit for ever."

* * *

This magazine may be sent from private addresses in Northern Ireland to U.S.A. and Dominions within the British Commonwealth ; excepting Eire, which must go from The Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast, or the Printer, E. Hodgett, Newry.

* * *

Mountpottinger—The Annual Sale of Work will be held in the Schoolroom on Friday, 1st November. The Sale will be opened at 3 o'clock by Mrs. Cecil Andrews.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. W. Eakin, 103 Greenore Street, Belfast.

November, 1940, number published on Saturday, October 28th. Copy sent in before 19th October will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. J, Shaw Brown, 1 Greenmount Avenue, Manse Road, Bangor.

* * *

A Legal Committee exists, under the auspices of the General Synod, to advise and assist congregations in legal watters. Apply to Clerk of Synod : Rev. J. Dare Davies, Moneyrea, nr. Comber.

* * *

Will our friends who see to the sale of this Magazine, kindly endeavour to get new subscribers.

* * *

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

OBITUARY.

The Rev. Alfred Turner.

The Rev. Alfred Turner died at his residence, Oakley, Ballymena, on Wednesday, September 18th. On his retirement four years ago he went to reside in Ballymena, where he was appointed a member of the Board of Governors of Ballymena Academy. He was a member of the Templepatrick Masonic Lodge and also held office in the Masonic Grand Lodge of Ireland For many years he was Assistant Secretary of the N.S.P. Orphan Society. He is survived by his wife, three sons and three daughters. Mr. Turner was the first Editor and that for many years of this magazine He held office as Moderator of the Church for two successive years.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

No persons' religious opinions are questioned on joining the N.S.P. Church, nor is interference with them permitted; but each is expected to show towards others the same tolerance that he demands for himself.

HARVEST FESTIVALS.

Notice of the following arrangements for Harvest Thanksgiving Services throughout our Churches has been received:—

September 22nd—
Clough, 11-30 and 6. Preacher, Rev. W. Holden.

September 29th—
Newry, 11-30 and 6-30. Preacher, Rev. R W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc., Belfast.
Ballee, 11.30 and 6. Preacher, Rev. W. Holden, Clough.
Mountpottinger, 11-30 and 7. Preacher, Rev. A. M. Bell, B.A., Killinchy.
Rademon, 12 noon and 6. Preacher, Right Rev. J. Glynne Davies, Comber.
All Souls, Belfast, 11-30. Preacher, Rev. J. Shaw Brown.
Templepatrick, 3. Preacher, Rev. A. G. Peaston.
Holywood, 11-30 and 6-15. Preacher Rev. C. J. Montgomery, M.A.

October 6th—
Ballyhemlin, 3-30. Preacher, Rev. John Barron. Belgravia Quartette.
Banbridge, 12 noon and 6-30. Preacher, Rev. J. McCleery, B.A., Newry. Collection for District Hospital.
Moneyrea, 12 noon and 5-30. Preacher, Rev. W. H. T. Tilson, M.A., Greyabbey.
Dromore, 12 noon and 6. Preacher, Rev. R. W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc., Belfast.

October 17th—Dromore, 8 p.m. Preacher, Rev. A. Davison.

October 16th—Killinchy, 12-15. Preacher, Rev. A. M. Bell, B.A.; 4 p.m., Rev. H. Hall, Downpatrick.
Cairncastle, 3-30. Preacher, Rev. W. H. Payne, Ballyclare.
Downpatrick, 11-30 and 6. Preacher Rev. F. Munford, B.A., Mountpottinger.

October 13th—
Greyabbey, 3-30. Preacher, Rev. J. D. Davies, Moneyrea.
Rosemary Street, Belfast, 11-30, 3-30 and 7. Preacher, Rev. R. W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc.
Crumlin, 3-30. Preacher, Rev. J. Hinkins, M.A.

October 20th.
Newtownards, 3-30. Preacher, Rev. W. H. T. Tilson, M.A.
Comber, Morning preacher, Right Rev. J. G. Davies; evening preacher, Rev. R. W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc.

October 27th—
Ravara, 3-30. Preacher, Right Rev. J. G. Davies, Comber.
Ballyclare, 12 noon and 6 p.m. Preacher, Rev. W. H. Payne.
Antrim, 3-30. Preacher, Rev. R. W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc., Belfast.

The Russell Family—The death of the Duke of Bedford on the 27th August is announced. He belonged to the old historic Russell family, a prominent name in which is that of William Lord Russell, who in 1683 was tried on a trumped-up charge of high treason in connection with the Rye House Plot, in the reign of Charles II., and beheaded in Lincoln's Inn Fields, close to where Essex Hall now is. Lord William was known to be a strong Protestant, and had done much both in Scotland and England for the relief of many people in distress, ministers and others, who were suffering under harsh laws. The Abbey Chapel, Tavistock, which was the Refectory of the ancient Abbey, a very strongly built building, with walls about five feet thick, was handed over by the Earl of Cedford to Thomas Larkham, minister of the parish church, Tavistock, from which the Earl discreetly removed him in 1660, prior to the Great Ejection of 1662. The Russell family always retained an interest in the Abbey Chapel, which is leased to the congregation. It is the oldest ecclesiastical building, held by the Old English Presbyterians, long before the name "Unitarian" was introduced. At one time there was a pew which occasionally was occupied by one of the Dukes on his visits to Tavistock. The late Duke of Bedford, who was President of the Zoological Society for 37 years, had a famous collection of animals at Woburn Abbey. Mr. R. E. Prothero, for many years his chief steward, was the author of the "Psalms in Human Life," and held the title of M.V.O., an Order to which the number is limited to eight. The recent article by Mr. H. J. F. Orr, in the September number, on "The Romance of the Psalms," contains items which are to be found in that book. These links are of denominational interest, and the late Rev. Alex. Gordon was greatly fascinated with them.

—:o:—

BAPTISM.

Anthony Louden, son of William Albert and Margaret Wedderburn Forest, on Sunday, August 25th, at Antrim.

YORK STREET CENTENARY

(October 6th, 1940).

A number of our Churches have held Centenary celebrations in recent years and all have had our good wishes but to none should our thoughts go out more than to our York Street friends now about to celebrate theirs. Seventeen years ago the Church was in debt and deserted by all but a faithful few. To-day it may be truly said that "the stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner." The debt has been turned into a small reserve fund. The Church and Hall are probably the brightest and most attractive in Belfast and the faithful few have grown to become our largest and most active congregation. Everything that has been done in the way of building new Churches by the spending of large sums of money subscribed to Church extension in other denominations has been done here in our own more difficult circumstances in difficult times by a congregation which had to be gathered to do it and year after year they have not only raised the money to maintain the Church but hundreds of pounds to spend on clearing it of debt and making it what it is to-day. Over a year ago the congregation set out to raise what seemed to many the impossible sum of £1,000 over and above the £600 that has to be raised every year to finish the rebuilding scheme and provide the beginnings of an Endowment which would put the future of the Church beyond doubt. In spite of the War which has prevented any of the usual activities by which money is raised in Churches and any appeal beyond mention of the matter in our columns this sum has been raised even before the Centenary which would have been marked by the last effort to complete it. It is now proposed to raise a second £1,000.

This new congregation has not lived to its self alone. Its enthusiastic members have filled many a country Meeting House. It has encouraged our students, provided us with lay preachers, contributed to our funds, kept the flag flying by its great services in the Ulster Hall, saved many young Non-Subscribers from being lost to us in Belfast, most of all it has done much to check the erroneous idea that we are a dying cause and put fresh heart into all of us. For all these things let us send our greetings on this occasion and let us remember that none of these things are done without labour and sacrifice. We see the results and we rejoice but do we ever think of what lies behind?

Great things were planned for this occasion even a meeting which would have been the largest ever held by our Free Chruches in these islands in the King's Hall or alternatively several services in the Ulster Hall with a week night meeting there as well. The war has altered all this and the Centenary will be celebrated very quietly. On Sunday, October 6th, two special services will be held in York Street at 11-30 and 7. Many will be turned away in the evening but it is hoped that despite the troubles of the times this will also happen in the morning. The Church has never been filled in the morning within the memory of the oldest member and though its accommodation has been so much increased it is hoped that it will be filled this time. On Monday, 7th October, a public meeting has been arranged. Our Moderator will preside and a few distinguished guests have been invited to represent the many causes with which the Church has been identified in recent years. On Tuesday there is to be a Swimming Gala. On Wednesday night a "Mock Parliament" as a repitition of the most successful one held in the Central Hall a year ago.

A large Whist Drive is arranged for Thursday and other events on Friday and Saturday. On the following Sunday the winter's work will begin in earnest. The Fellowship will be opened at 4 p.m., by Dr. R. H. Hunter, Secretary of Queen's University.

With almost one half of those who normally attended prevented from doing so by present circumstances the attendances in York Street are as large if not larger than in peace time. This is due to a splendid effort on the part of members to make the best attendances they can so that there may be no falling back. We are sure that any Non-Subscribers able to help by their presence

even occasionally will gladly do so and that many will try to be present at the Centenary services. Seldom has such support been more deserved. May what has been done in the past be only a promise of what is yet to be.

——:o:——

£1,000 Building and Endowment Fund.

Further contributions sent direct—Mr. R. Clarke £1, Rev, J. D. Davies £1, Mr. J. Shannon, senr., £2, Rev. R. W. and Mrs. Wilde £5, Mrs. McKee, Ballycarry 10/-, Downpatrick congregation £3 12s 6d, Mr. A. Corbett (2nd subscription) £4, Mr. F. Robinson (2nd subscription) £1.

Rademon congregation as per Rev. J. J. Magill, B.A.—Mr. Robt. Hanna £2, Mrs. Lizzie Hanna £1, Mrs. Cleland £1, Mrs. Duff 10/-, Rev. J. J. Magill £1, Miss Elaine Porter 10/-.

We gratefully acknowledge these contributions bringing the total raised through the Non-Subscribers to £311. This includes collections given by eleven of our Churches. Contributions given through and by our members bring the total of the Fund to £970 and sums promised before the end of the month indicate that the £1,000 aimed at will be exceeded before Centenary Sunday. As £500 of this money was required to complete the work of rebuilding which has gone on for the past seventeen years £500 remains to be invested for the principal purpose in view. Our members propose to work on to raise this to £1,000. The question of purchasing a house suitable for a Manse is being considered as this would provide the best return for the money invested. We would impress on all our friends that no part of the capital subscribed to the Church now or in the past has been or will be used by the present congregation.

Every shilling given from outside and all that we can spare ourselves is being devoted to the one supreme purpose of ensuring that this Church, so valuable to our denomination, will be able to continue under any possible circumstances. Even if our efforts do not succeed, and they can only fail through the remarkable lack of interest shown by our denomination in any forward movement though that is our greatest need, all the money subscribed to York Street with many hundreds of pounds spent to make the property what it is by our own people, will be at the disposal of the Presbytery of Antrim for the strengthening of Churches remaining. Our hope is to succeed and given time we may be able to do for ourselves what has been done for the many new Churches built around us by more enthusiastic denominations already. But nothing can be lost and we hope that from time to time we may still be helped in this effort by those who wish to see our Non-Subscribing Church flourishing.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor, "Non-Subscribing Presbyterian."

Rev. Sir.

After carefully reading Mr. H. J. F. Orr's article I have a question to ask him, and a correction to make. The question is simple: When was the First Congregation of Protestant Dissenters formed in Belfast?

Mr. Orr has made a slip when he refers to the Solemn League and Covenant, which was signed at Holywood on the 8th and 9th April, 1644. The preamble to the signatures is as follows:—

> "At Holliwood, the 8th Apryll, 1644, and upon ye nynth hereof lykweyes after sermon delyvered by Mr. William Adair upon both these dayes the covenant of religion was explained and theirafter sworne, subscribed, and sealed w't marks by a number of ye inhabitants of ye Kingdom of Ire'and."

It was two years later when Patrick Adair was ordained to the charge of Cairncastle, but William Adair was one of four ministers sent by the Assembly of the Church of Scotland to organize Presbyterianism in Ulster.

My authorities are Patrick Adair's Narrative and Mr. Arthur Deane, curator of the Municipal Museum and Art Gallery, Belfast.

Yours faithfully,

WM. H. McCAFFERTY.

DEATH.

TURNER — September 18th, 1940, at Oakley, Ballymena, the Rev. Alfred Turner, late minister of Raloo, 1888-1890, Templepatrick 1890-1936

REPORTS.

Ministers' Conference — The monthly meetings were resumed at the Manse, Holywood, September 2nd, 1940, the Rev. C. J. Montgomery, M.A., presiding. There was a good attendance.

A paper on Home Missions was given by Rev. J. McCleery, of Raloo. Mr. McCleery gave some of his own experience in connection with this type of work in Manchester and in Glasgow. He was introduced to the work in Manchester by his brother, the late Rev. J. McCleery, who at that time was Assistant Secretary to the Manchester City Mission. For three years Mr. McCleery had experience of visitation, short addresses to workmen at lunch hours, in lodging-houses, etc., and meetings in the evenings in mission halls. It is very possible that among those who have entered the ministry in recent years and whose contact with City Mission work is necessarily of a limited nature, there is a good deal of misconception about the spirit and meaning of such work. At the time Mr. McCleery was engaged in this work there were over a hundred missionaries of work.

The Editor has among his early recollections a vast concourse of people at the funeral of a devoted missionary who had spent his life in the work, and whom people of all denominations gladly welcomed to their homes, especially those who had slight connection with any of the churches, and elderly people who in those years specially welcomed a Scripture reader. There was a link of real relationship and friendliness in the unostentatious faithful ministry of a thoroughly good Christian man. Experience had to be gained in entering homes where there were some of the roughest type of men, often inclined to be antagonistic, but with whom a fuller acquaintance opened up the way to greater friendliness.

In those days there was little renumeration for this kind of work, and the men were satisfied if enough were forthcoming to supply their needs, and often great faith was needed.

Mr. McCleery then made his way to Glasgow to prepare at Glasgow University for the work of the Ministry. There was a Mission connected with the Students Settlements, founded by Prof. Drummond. The Manchester experience was of value in the work in Glasgow. At the University, contact was made with such men as Professors H. Jones, Rankin, McMurray, and among students the late John Buchan, who became Governor-General of Canada. The Rev. Dr. Wylie Blue was there also at that time. In Scotland, almost parallel to the work of a curate, is that of student-missionaries attached to the Churches, which those who have had experience of such Churches will understand. As such Mr. McCleery often preached for the late Rev. Mr. Rattray of Park House Parish Church, and also Springburn Parish Church, and Dr. Rattray invited Mr. McCleery to become his assistant. Four years at the Free Church College was part of the preparation for the ministry. But doctrinal questions were causing unsettlement in Mr. McCleery's opinions, and returning home to Ireland, through the interest of the Rev. J. Kennedy of Larne, and the Rev. W. Napier of Clough, Mr. McCleery became a licentiate of the Antrim Presbytery and was ordained minister of Raloo, 37 years ago. An exceedingly practical man, he has accomplished a good work among a sturdy devoted people who realise that they have one who thoroughly understands the life they live in all its varied phases. (Ed.)

——:o:——

Templepatrick Presbytery — The pulpit at Ballycarry has been declared vacant. The Rev. W. G. Marsden has resigned on the grounds of failing health, after a ministry of forty-two years. The Rev. W. G. Marsden's address will remain: "The Manse, Ballycarry."

——:o:——

First Church Belfast — The day of National prayer was observed on Sunday, September 8th. In the morning the sermon was entitled "Lift up your Hearts," and the anthem, "Hear the voice and prayer," (Hopkins). In the evening the sermon title was "The Conquest of Fear," and the anthem "Hymn of Peace," (Calcott). Prayers special to the occasion were also used, and the customary order of service was modified.

The stained glass windows in the Church have been entirely bricked up from outside, by way of air raid precautions, whilst the remaining windows have been covered on the inside with anti-splinter fabric.

Through the kindness of one of our members, the organ pipes have been rebronzed and reburnished, the whole cost of this work being met by the member concerned.

With the advent of the Autumn our various instutional activities have been resumed. The church choir has recommenced rehearsals, and is busily repairing for the Harvest and Sunday School Anniversary Services, which will take place on Sunday, October 13th.

The Dramatic Society, and Junior Women's League, and the Discussion Circle have all begun their new winter session. The Sunday School reopened with the first Sunday in September.

The speaker at the opening meeting of the Discussion Circle, which took place on Sunday afternoon, September 15th, was Mr. John Radcliffe, who gave a very interesting and informative address on "Machiavelli, his background, and his Teaching." This will be the last occasion, probably, during the present session when we shall have the pleasure of hearing Mr. Radcliffe, for he will be leaving shortly to study at Manchester College, Oxford. Our heartiest good wishes will go with him.

It is hoped to organise (under the auspices of the Discussion Circle) another "Mock Parliament," with the York Street friends. This has been provisionally fixed for Wednesday, October 9th, in the York Street Church Hall. We look forward to as enjoyable a time as on the last occasion.

——:o:——

We have recently lost by death one of our oldest church members in the person of Mrs. James Davison, who died at Donaghdee on Sunday, August 25th, and was interred in the Belfast City Cemetery on Wednesday, Aug. 28th. For several years she had been in failing health, but to the end retained her active interest in the church and its doings. We shall gratefully remember her.

As formerly, we send our affecionate greetings to those of our members who are away. May a good courage be theirs. We have them constantly in our thoughts.

——:o:——

Comber—On Sept. 8th, — the day set apart by the King's desire, for a day of Intercession—the local detatchments of the Home Guard and Special Constabulary attended our church. There was a good attendance of the men who presented a very fine appearance under the command of Commandant H. McCormick.

Special music was rendered by the choir who had been trained by the choir-master, Mr. W. Munn. The preacher, the Right Rev. J. Glynne Davies, extended a hearty welcome to the men and voiced his appreciation of the civil population for the work done by the men in their efforts to guard their home-land. The whole service was very impressive and of great help in these times of trouble.

Men's League—The outing to Newry and Warrenpoint took place as arranged on Sept. 7th, the numbers of the party being quite satisfactory having in mind the present conditions. It was evident as each member joined the excursionists that he was looking forward to a pleasant afternoon and he was not disappointed *The conversations in the train* were most interesting, and the conjuring of the versatile "A.L.A.," simply bewildering.

Arriving at Newry we were met by the genial Rev. McCleery and conducted to the Manse, being hospitably received by Mrs. McCleery, who ministered to our creature comforts, ably assisted by the aforesaid

A visit was then paid to the tomb of John Mitchel, the Irish Nationalist, which was in a good state of preservation and the grounds neat and well kep .

Our next call was at the church which is a pleasure to behold both outside and inside. Here Norman Woolley played a short time on the organ and the Rev. R. W. Wilde gave us some selections on the piano in the schoolroom.

Joining the train again at the Dublin Bridge station we soon reached Warrenpoint where we were shown over the church to our great delight.

From here we walked through the country to the cafe where tea was served and thoroughly enjoyed by one and all.

Leaving Warrenpoint at 7-45 p.m , we passed the Customs successfully and after more pleasant talks in the train got to Belfast at 9-20 p.m. all happy and content and looking forward to the next trip.

——:o:——

Women's League—The Quarterly Meeting of the Ulster District was held at Holywood on Sept. 11th, when a very helpful service was conducted in the church at 3 p.m. by Mrs. G. Davies of Comber. Mr. J. Shannon presided at the organ. Tea was served in the school-room, after which the visitors in relays viewed the studio of Miss R. Praeger, and had great pleasure in seeing her latest completed work, which is to be placed in a Sheffield hospital when quieter times prevail.

Members of the District appreciate the good work of Mrs. Wilson, of the Holywood Branch. A French woman herself she has been entertaining daily French sailors, at her own home for many weeks. Her hospitality must mean very much to these men and boys who do not speak very much if any English.

Mrs. Cecil Andrews, President of the District, expressed thanks to Miss Praeger and all who helped to make the meeting a success.

COMFORTS FOR THE TROOPS.

Dear Editor,—Now that the cold weather is here and apparently it arrived in England before it reached here as all the letters express appreciation of the woollens. "Now that the weather is so cold," special needs are pull-overs — long-sleeved if possible—helmets and scarves. Grey wool only should be used for socks. Contributions of woollens were received from Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. Gardiner, of Holywood. Parcel of soap, etc., from Mrs. Robinson; 14/- from Mrs. D. Shannon, Mrs. Leckie, Mrs. Owen, Miss C. Shannon and Miss Neill—all of Holywood. 5/- from Mrs. Cecil Andrews; 6/- from Mrs. J. Thompson and friends (Comber); 10/- from Miss Hogarth (Ballyclare). Many knitters are to be thanked also for their splendid work. I hope for more and more as the cold weather comes nearer. There are now a good number of Unitarians from across the water. I do hope that each one will receive a hearty welcome at whatever Church he attends. Don't let anyone, young or old, refrain from speaking because of shyness.

Yours sincerely,

EDITH DAVIES,
Hon Fellowship Sec.

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LATEST NEWS.

YORK STREET N.S.P. CHURCH.

The Building and Endowment Fund now stands at

£1005.

SPECIAL SERMONS IN ALL SOULS DURING OCTOBER, at 11-30 a.m.

Preacher, Rev. J. SHAW BROWN.

Oct. 6—The Biggest Church in the World.
Oct. 20—Rupert Brooke: a memory of 1914.
Oct. 20—The Religion of a Pagan Christian.
Oct. 27—The Religious Childhood of R. L. Stevenson.

— The Unitarian and — Free Christian Men's League.

BELFAST CHAPTER

—:o:—

Meets as announced October to May, inclusive.

OBJECTS (inter alia).

To encourage laymen to take a more active part in the work of the Churches.

To form a bond of union and closer co-operation between the members of the various congregations.

The Committee invite those who are not already members to join. The minimum subscription is 1/-, and further particulars may be obtained from:—
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REVIEW.

The Psalmody of the Old Congregation in Belfast, 1760-1840. Wm. H. McCafferty. A reprint from "Transactions of the Unitarian Historical Society" (London.)

The present writer was stimulated to take up this line of research by reading the "Historic Memorials of the First Presbyterian Church of Belfast," and has directed his attention to the study of "the Psalmody of the House, during those early years prior to the introduction of instrumental music, and believing that many historic records are vitiated by the obtrusion of personal opinions," quotes direct from the record.

The earliest extract minute-book of "the Old Congregation in Belfast," is from 3rd September, 1760 to 1st January, 1775. Clause 3 in Rules, 3/9/1760, states:—"That the Seats in the Meeting-house be numbered and rated in the most equal manner so as to raise the annual sum to be paid to the Minister and Clerk and a surplus for deficiencies and contingent charges."

Mr. Vincent was the clerk, and, in 1762, the choir consisted of eleven poor boys under his leadership. There were masters to teach them reading and writing; they were also clothed by the congregation and periodically examined by the committee.

"4. The Charity Sermon was recommended to the Ministers for the 2nd Sunday of August 'as more expedient,' previous notice of it to be inserted in Joy's paper the tuesday and friday before.'

The collection taken at this charity sermon was an important source of income in financing the choir-school. Joy's paper, *The Belfast News-Letter*, is now in its 203rd year.

The second volume of minutes is entitled: "The Committee Book of The Old Meeting-house of Belfast." It covers the period 1775-1781, but contains little of musical interest. The congregation was more concerned about the building of the present meeting-house, which was opened for worship in June, 1783.

In the next minute book (1781-1819) which in interest is an improvement on its predecessor, contains no reference to what in subsequent years proved to be a great historical event: The visit of the veteran John Wesley, who preached in the new meeting-house in his 86th year; though in his Journal he described the building as "the completest place of worship I have ever seen," and "beautiful in the highest degree."

In 1792 the choir having diminished in numbers, it was "Resolved that Ernest Cochran be directed to purchase one pair of shoes for Each of the Six Children who attend here and sing with him."

On May 3rd, 1801, Mr. Edward Bunting "made a very liberal proposal respecting the purchase of an organ. Dr. Bruce was requested to return their Thanks to Mr. Bunting in the warmest Terms of Gratitude."

Belfast, 10th May, 1801. "Resolved that Mr. Joy and Mr. Houston be appointed to superintend the publication of the new collection of Psalms." "Authorised to engage for 1000 copies, with any printer they may fix on." Details are given at length.

The Second Congregation got ahead of the First Congregation with "the earliest Organ used in public worship by the Protestant Dissenters of the North."

Committee, 3rd August, 1806. "Resolved that the Opinion of the Heads of families be taken after Evening Service: next Sabbath—with respect to the propriety of altering the Hours of worship from 12 to one, and two to three; partly in consequence of the erection of an Organ in the Second Congregation, which is conceived may disturb Worship in this House."

Mention is made of the selection and engagement of "singing clerks" from time to time. "The person (Hughes) alluded to underwith, shall sing on trial in this House." The Organist of Armagh Cathedral recommended Wm. Hughes as a fit person to act as Clerk to this House and mentioning that "his Discharge from the Army (18th Regt. of Foot, 2nd Battn.) cannot be procured except by putting two Substitutes in his place, at the Cost, as his Captain said of 40£." Seven members guaranteed to advance the £40.

"The present meeting-house of the Third Presbyterian Congregation, now known as Rosemary Street Presbyterian Church, was opened for worship on Sunday, 15th April, 1832. This was the section of the orthodox congregation joined by the subscribing members of the First and Second Congregations."

Mr. McCafferty has provided a very valuable and interesting "Transaction."

ORPHAN SOCIETY.

Their will be no elections of Orphans this year.

The Rev. A. Turner, Assistant Secretary, has passed away after a severe heart-attack

HISTORICAL NOTES.

By H. F. C. Orr.

THOMAS EMLYN.

Thomas Emlyn, who was imprisoned and fined for his Unitarian views, was not the first of that faith to suffer for his religious opinions in Ireland.

There is a record of one who suffered even unto death, as far back as 1327. Adam Duff, a Leinster man, was burned alive on College Green, as it is now known. Hoggin Green was the old name, near the site of an old monastry, All Hallows. He denied the doctrine of the Trinity, and of the Incarnation, also rejecting the authority of the Pope. Little is known of this martyr, his enemies saying he was possessed by the devil. The history of Thomas Emlyn is most interesting, because he was the first minister of any Presbyterian congregation in Ireland who avowed himself an Arian. His views were very different from present day Unitarianism, believing amongst other things that Jesus was the first of derived beings.

"I now thought myself bound as a Christian to declare my faith openly . . . . , and freely owned myself convinced that the God and Father of Jesus Christ is alone the Supreme Being and superior in excellency and authority to His son (or to that effect) who derives all from Him." — Emlyn's Narrative.

Born at Stamford, Lincolnshire, 27th May, 1663, his parents although Episcoplians educated him for the Nonconformist Ministry. After a period in Emanuel College, Cambridge, he became chaplain to the Countess of Donegal, then residing in London, 1683. Coming over to Belfast in 1684, he preached in the Castle Hall every Sunday evening, and officiated occasionally in what is now known as St. George's. The Countess in the meantime had married Sir William Franklin, who offered Emlyn a Living on his estate in the West of England, but for conscientious reasons the offer was declined.

The state of the country in 1688, and domestic disagreements in the Franklin family, caused Emlyn to return to England, where he became minister of a Dissenting church at Leostaff, Suffolk. It was while there, after reading a Vindication of the Trinity by Sherlock, Dean of St. Paul's, that his religious views changed.

In 1681, on the invitation of Rev. Joseph Boyse, Wood St., Dublin, he returned to Ireland as his colleague, succeeding the celebrated Dr. Williams. He was no stranger to the Dublin congregation, as when in Belfast he had preached to them several times. His sermons were practical rather than doctrinal. For eleven years he preached undisturbed, but a Dr. Duncan Cumming, a leading member who had been intended for the ministry before taking up medicine, observed that he never in his sermons mentioned the Deity of Christ, suspected the true reason, and with Rev. Boyse waited on Emyln in June, 1702, to question him as to his views. He honestly avowed himself an Arian, and offered to resign. Mr. Boyse, however, thought it necessary to inform other local ministers. These conferred with Emlyn and assuming presbyterial powers expelled him from the church.

Emlyn at this time was in a sad way. His wife had just died and he was left with two young children. He returned to England for a few months, and thinking the matter in Dublin had quieted down, returned there. A Baptist, Caleb Thomas, took out a special warrant from the Lord Chief Justice to seize Emlyn and he was obliged to give bail to stand trial for blasphemy.

He had great difficulty in securing any lawyer to undertake his defence. The Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin with several other bishops, were present at the trial. The charge was based on Emlyn's publication, "An humble inquiry into the Scripture account of the Lord Jesus Christ." No evidence of the authorship could be obtained. The Chief Justice, however, told the jury that "presumption" was as good as evidence, and drew their attention to the fact that a number of bishops were present — in fact "hurried and goaded" the jury to bring in a verdict of guilty.

He was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, a fine of one thousand pounds, to be kept in jail until this was paid and find security for good behaviour during life. A paper indicating his crime and sentence was pinned on his breast and he was led round the Four Courts to be insulted by the crowd. Being unable to pay the fine he lay two years in jail. It was then discovered through the Duke of Ormond that the excessive fine was illegal, so it was reduced to seventy pounds. The Lord Primate, being the Queen's Almoner was entitled to one shilling in the pound, demanded the levy on original sum, so twenty more had to be paid. He retired to England and private life and devoted the rest of his days to theological study and literature. He died on 30th July, 1743.

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